

How to Apply for Your Co-op Work Permit

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International students who are undertaking co-op or internship work as part of their Carleton program of study must apply to [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada \(IRCC\)](#) for a **co-op work permit** before starting their first work term. A co-op work permit authorizes a study permit holder to work full-time on- or off-campus during school terms, provided the work is registered with Carleton Co-operative Education or approved by a graduate program administrator.

- A co-op work permit authorizes only work that is a required component of a program of study and that will appear on the student's academic transcript. This work should not comprise more than 50% of the program of study.
- Having a co-op work permit or being employed in a co-op placement does not affect the student's authorization to do on- and off-campus work as a study permit holder.
- A co-op work permit generally has the same expiry date as the student's study permit.
- Even unpaid internships are work according to Canada's immigration laws.

This Guide is intended for use by students in Canada who have a valid study permit and are applying for **only** a co-op work permit.

Students with a study permit that is about to expire can apply for a new study permit and a co-op work permit in the same application. Students may refer to the [ISSO's resources for renewing a study permit](#) for guidance on this type of application.

Carleton students may contact the ISSO for additional information and support.

International Student Services Office (ISSO)
Carleton University, 128 Nideyinàn
Phone: 613-520-6600
Email: immigration.advising@carleton.ca
[Learn more about how to contact us or meet with an advisor.](#)

1. When to Apply for a Co-op Work Permit

You should apply as soon as possible after you receive a letter from Carleton Co-operative Education (or from a graduate department administrator) that says you are a student in a program with a required work component. The application can be done in an hour or so, and there is no fee. It's best to have your work permit well before the term when you plan to do your first co-op term.

Between the time you apply for the co-op work permit and the time IRCC approves it, you may only work as authorized by your study permit, which limits you to part-time work off-campus.

2. Processing Time

Processing times can vary from 1-4 months and can be even longer sometimes. IRCC's current processing time is published on the [IRCC website](#). The published time is an estimate, not a guarantee.

3. Documents Needed

In addition to your co-op letter from Carleton University, you should have a valid passport and valid study permit before applying.

You need scans, photos or PDFs of these documents ready to upload to your work permit application.

- Letter from Carleton Co-operative Education or a graduate program administrator, confirming that work is a required component of your program of study.
- Passport – Information page plus all visas and entry or exit stamps. Merge all pages into one digital file.
- Photo – digital passport photo

You will need to reference some information that is on your study permit for the application form, but you don't need to scan your study permit.

4. Online Application

1. Sign in or create an account at the IRCC website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/account.html>
2. When you are logged in, scroll down the page to look for *Start an application*, then *Apply to come to Canada*. Under that heading, select *Apply for a visitor visa, study or work permit*. You **don't need** a Personal Reference Code as requested at the top of the page.
3. Answer the eligibility questionnaire. See Section 5 for tips on answering the questionnaire.
4. Review your questionnaire answers, then proceed to your application, which has a list of forms and documents.
5. Download IMM 5710, open it with [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) and fill in information as described Section 6. When the form is completed and validated, as described in Section 6, upload it to your application.
6. Upload your co-op letter, passport, and photo using the *upload* buttons beside each item in the list.
7. Some students may have an additional Family Information form to complete. Complete and upload this form. You do not need to write or type in the signature areas of this form. Your entire application is signed electronically just before you submit it.

8. There are two optional items, which most student don't need to include:
 - a. Schedule 1 IMM 5257 — If you answer “No” to background questions 3-6 on IMM 5710, you don't need to complete this form.
 - b. Client Information — This line is for an explanation letter or extra documents. These usually aren't needed for a co-op work permit application.
9. After all documents are uploaded, select “Next”.
10. Agree that you have told the truth in your application. Answer the security question and type your name. This is how you sign everything included in the application. You don't need to sign the application forms.
11. Submit your application. There is no application fee to pay.
12. When your application is approved, you will receive an email telling you to look in your account for the approval letter. The co-op work permit will be mailed to the Canadian mailing address you gave in your application.
13. **Important:** If your address changes while you are waiting for the work permit to be processed, use the [IRCC Web Form](#) to update your contact information. If your permit gets lost because you have moved, you may have to make a new [application to replace it](#).

5. Eligibility Questionnaire

Q. What would you like to do in Canada?

A. Work

Q. How long are you planning to stay in Canada?

A. Temporarily – more than 6 months

Q. Select the code that matches the one on your passport

A. [Pick the country from the pull-down menu]

Q. What is your current country of residence?

A. Canada

Q. Do you have a family member who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and is 18 years or older?

A. [Yes or No – Answer yes only if the family member is a spouse/common-law partner or a dependent child]

Q. What is your date of birth? – day, month, year

A. [This date should match what is on your passport.]

Q. Are you a lawful permanent resident of the United States with a valid U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) number?

A. [Yes or No]

Q. What is your current immigration status in Canada?

A. Student

Q. Do you plan to work on campus?

A. No [Because your study permit already authorizes you to do on-campus work.]

Q. Are you a full-time student at a participating post-secondary institution and want to work off campus up to 20 hours per week?

A. No [Because your study permit already authorizes to do off-campus work.]

Q. Have you recently graduated from a participating Canadian post-secondary institution for which your study program was full-time and a minimum of eight months?

A. No

Q. Is your work an essential part of your studies (for example, a Co-Op or internship program)?

A. Yes

Q. Have you been told by an Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada office that you are approved in principle for permanent residence in Canada?

A. [Yes or No] – probably No for almost all students.

Q. Have you submitted a permanent resident application in Canada?

A. [Yes or No] – Probably No for almost all students.

Q. Do you have a written job offer?

A. No

Q. What is your current marital status?

A. [Choose from the pull-down menu]

Q. What is your province of destination?

A. Ontario

At this point, you may see two options (depending on which country you are from):

- Temporary Resident Visa
- Co-op (in Canada)

Click “Continue” beside Co-op.

Q. Are you accompanying a family member who has status in Canada?

A. [Yes or No]

Q. Do you also want to apply for a study permit?

A. No

Q. When does your status in Canada expire?

A. [Enter the date that your study permit expires]

Q. Have you had a medical exam performed by an IRCC authorized panel physician (doctor) within the last 12 months?

A. [Yes or No] If your answer is Yes, you don’t need to do a new medical exam. You will need your previous E-medical receipt or the reference number for the application.

Q. A medical exam is needed before you submit your application for foreign nationals who:

- *Want to stay in Canada for more than 6 months and have live in one or more designated countries or territories for more than six months in the past year or;*
- *Intend to work in one of the following jobs:*
 - *Health sciences worker*
 - *Clinical laboratory worker*
 - *Patient attendant in nursing or geriatric homes*
 - *Medical student admitted to Canada to attend university*
 - *Medical elective and physician on short term assignment*
 - *Teacher of primary or secondary schools or other teachers of small children*
 - *Domestics worker, someone one gives in-home care to children, the elderly and the disabled*
 - *Day nursery worker*

Do you fit into one of these categories?

A. [Yes or No] Designated countries are those where there is an elevated risk of contracting a dangerous disease. [Here is a link to the list of designated countries.](#) If you have been in Canada for more than 6 months in the past year, your answer is No, unless you want to work in one of the fields listed.

Q. Do you want to work in one of the following jobs?

- *Health sciences worker*
- *Clinical laboratory worker*
- *Patient attendant in nursing or geriatric homes*
- *Medical student admitted to Canada to attend university*
- *Medical elective and physician on short term assignment*
- *Teacher of primary or secondary schools or other teachers of small children*
- *Domestics worker, someone one gives in-home care to children, the elderly and the disabled*
- *Day nursery worker*

A. [Yes or No]

Please refer to the information about IMEs in Section 7.

Q. *Do you want to submit an application for a family member?*

A. No

Q. *Are you giving someone access to your application?*

A. No

Q. *In the past 10 years, have you given your fingerprints and photo (biometrics) for an application to come to Canada?*

A. [Yes or No] Most students gave biometrics before coming to Canada, and they remain valid for 10 years.

Q. *Are you able to make a digital copy of your documents with a scanner or camera?*

A. Yes

At the end of the questionnaire, you will see a page with all the questions and your answers. If you need to revise anything, click on the pencil icon.

Click on “Continue” to proceed to your application list.

6. Tips for Completing Application Form IMM 5710

Click on the name of the form in your application list. It won't appear correctly until you download the application form to your computer and open it with [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#). Fill in the information, saving as you go. Click on “validate” when you are done. Save the file. Then it is ready to upload to the application.

Information fields that have an asterisk (*) must be completed. Other fields may be left blank if they don't apply to you.

Page One

UCI = Unique Client Identifier

This is your identity number with IRCC and it remains the same for your lifetime. It is on your study permit.

I am applying for one or more of the following:

- Apply for a work permit or with a new employer

Name

Enter your name exactly as it appears on your passport.

Current country of residence – Canada

- *Status* – Student
- *From:* (Date when your first study permit was issued) to (Date of current Study Permit expiry)

Page Two

National Identity Document

Not all countries have a National ID. If yours does, provide the information. Some cards don't have an expiry date. It's possible to leave that field blank.

Contact Information

- Mailing address in Canada — This is where you want IRCC to send your work permit.
- Residential address — This is where you are living now in Canada.

Page Three

Date and place of your original entry to Canada

This should be the first time you ever came to Canada in your life. Dates and locations of entry should match stamps in your passport or your travel records, if you don't have a stamp.

Date of place of your most recent entry to Canada

When and where did you last come into Canada?

Document number of your current status document (Study Permit)

This number starts with an F and is printed in black ink near the top right of your Study Permit.

Details of Intended Work in Canada

Pick Co-op Work Permit from the pull-down menu in the first box. Leave the rest of the details blank. Your work permit will be issued with Carleton University named as your employer. You do have to answer *No* to the question: “Have you been issued a certificate under the Provincial Nominee Program?”

Education - Have you had any post-secondary study?

Put information about your studies at Carleton.

Employment

You must enter something in the first line, so enter your current activity as “Student” at Carleton. You can leave the following lines of the employment section empty.

Page Four — Background Information (for students who are at least 18 years old)

Answer *Yes* or *No* to questions about:

- Your exposure to tuberculosis
- Any physical or mental disorder, if you might use services in Canada
- Your immigration history, especially in Canada
- Your criminal history
- Your history in the police or the military
- Your exposure to war crimes.

Most students answer *No* most of these questions, but read them all carefully, and answer truthfully. Note that you should answer *Yes* to at least one part of Question 2:

(a) Have you ever remained beyond the validity of your status, attended school or worked without authorization?

Answer *Yes* if this was ever true in the past.

(b) Have you ever been refused a visa or permit, denied entry or ordered to leave Canada, or any other country?

Answer *Yes* if you ever applied for a visa for any country, or tried to enter a country, and were not successful. Otherwise, answer *No*.

(c) Have you previously applied to enter or remain in Canada?

Your answer must be *Yes*. Your explanation could be: “I got a study permit in [month, year]”. But if you’ve come as a visitor before, or had a study permit extension before, include those things too. You don’t need to include a lot of details. The type of application and the date are enough.

Page Five – Declarations and Signature

Do you agree to be contacted by IRCC or their representative?

Check *Yes* or *No*. If you answer *Yes*, you may get an email in the future from IRCC asking you to answer a survey. If you answer *No*, you can still get your co-op work permit.

You must consent that information about you can be shared by IRCC/CBSA and by government and police authorities from other countries where you have lived.

You must declare that you have answered all questions fully and truthfully.

You may type your name and the date where indicated.

Validation

When the application is completed, click the “Validate” button. If there are no errors and no blanks in mandatory fields, the form will validate. Save the validated document on your computer. Then it is ready to upload to your online application.

If you make any changes to the form, re-validate and save it once more before uploading.

7. Note About Immigration Medical Exams

Students who want to work, or might want to work in some areas of employment will need valid immigration medical exam (IME) results. If they don't provide IME results, their work permit will have a restriction from working in these jobs:

- health sciences worker
- clinical laboratory worker
- patient attendant in nursing or geriatric homes
- medical student admitted to Canada to attend university
- medical elective and physician on short term assignment
- teacher of primary or secondary schools or other teachers of small children
- domestics worker, someone who gives in-home care to children, the elderly and the disabled
- day nursery worker

Normally IME results are valid for one year. But until October 6, 2024 applicants in Canada may use IME results from within the past five years, provided they posed no risk to public health or safety and were not reported to public health authorities for monitoring.

If you qualify for this exemption, provide the unique medical identifier number from your previous medical exam, or upload the e-medical receipt. We recommend that you also attach a note requesting the exemption, with a reference to the [IRCC website information](#).